

WASHINGTON.

The Financial Talk Still Dragging Its Slow Length Along.

Irregularities in the Department of Justice.

BUTLER'S PENSION BILL

The President on the Carpet Bag Element in the South.

The Monotonous Monetary Debate in the Senate—The Climax Drawing Near—Uncertainty as to the Result of a Definitive Vote.

The Senate took up again the much tortured question of finance, and were treated to a long speech from Senator Chandler, the great Senator, as he was being criticised to-day by Senator Logan. He argued the question in his peculiarly impassioned manner and frequently, as he flung his arms wildly in the air, repeating the sentence ironically, "more money," he, with varying sentence and effect, chided the policy of the inflationists and opposed their views in toto. This great and serious question of the day, involving the interests of the whole country, was treated by him, to a certain degree, in a manner which was regarded by the Senate as a companion picture to Flanagan's character speech of yesterday, in the amusement provoked by his peculiar, gritty and slashing manner. The anti-inflationists derived great comfort from the staunch advocacy of "hard cash" principles in currency which he so earnestly avowed. He was followed by Senator Morton, who met his arguments with every ready force, and continued his cogent reasoning, favoring throughout increased circulation. So, with varying debate throughout the day, the interest increased as the parliamentary efforts evidenced a decrease in force and brilliancy, until it became evident that the climax was drawing near when a vote could not be much longer postponed. A few more attempts at strategy and tactics were made, and it was patent to the observer that the near approach to a final settlement by vote was not regarded as palatable. So motions were made for an executive session, adjournment and amendments in succession, which were unavailing, and finally the question was called on Senator Wright's amendment to recommend, which, as foreshadowed in these despatches of yesterday, was lost by a close vote of twenty-eight to thirty. Then there was some skirmishing to avoid the issue on Senator Merrimon's amendment, for which purpose Senator Howe sent in an amendment, which was lost. Then Senator Thurman rose and made an urgent appeal to recommend, and Senator Buckingham offered a substitute to cover the whole bill, providing for a recommissioned committee on the subject, and the time was spent on it, when it seemed to be hoped that it would be impracticable to take a vote to-day on the amendments of Senators Merrimon and Cameron. The pages were sent right and left to bring in absent Senators who might be in the cloakroom or lobby, so as to have a full vote. Senators Cameron, Logan, and Ferry of Michigan, moved about anxiously to satisfy themselves that every one was at his post, and that the full voting force should be present. Senator Schurz and others of the opposition were equally active and anxious. The atmosphere was growing electric with subdued excitement, and a keyed-up strain of increasing anticipation prevailed. A flood of light flashed overhead as the gas was turned on. Senators Morton, and Ferry of Michigan, asked that the vote be deferred until to-morrow, owing to the absence of certain Senators favorable to inflation. No! the vote must be taken; no adjournment is necessary nor possible. Senators Conkling and Sherman will not listen to postponement. Again a hurried movement is perceptible, and every one settles down for the vote which is to decide this contest of varying views and propositions on the great question of the day. Every one is intent, and the movement for settlement of the vexed and complicated issue seems to have arrived. There is a slight pause. Suddenly Senator Morton moves an adjournment, which has already been twice defeated. "Yeas" and "Nays" are called. The coalition of Senators Morton, Logan, Cameron and Ferry of Michigan, with others of the same ilk, is too strong. The motion is carried by a vote of thirty-eight to twenty-four. For the present the crisis is deferred. Most of the Senators were so impatient to get away that they commenced leaving the chamber before the vote was announced by the Chair, as soon as they had become convinced that it was carried in the affirmative. The vote will be taken to-morrow on the other amendments, looking to inflation, as offered by Senators Buckingham, Merrimon and Cameron, and unless there shall be additional speaking or other maneuver for the purpose of securing dilatory or unfavorable action, it may be counted upon that the decisive vote in a small majority will be given in the Senate favoring inflation. Almost every argument having been used and every right having been resorted to, it is difficult to see how the anti-inflation Senators can longer defer action of some positive character looking to inflation, but the most sagacious Senators acknowledge that they are in doubt when a vote can be reached. When that occurs the policy of inflation will be sustained by a majority of at least three in the Senate, and there is no change likely to occur from present appearances.

The Voluntary Currency in Circulation in Germany, Great Britain and France.

In consequence of frequent applications to the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics for information in regard to the amount of circulating medium in Great Britain, France and other European countries, and of the wide divergence of statement on the part of European as well as American financiers, an examination has been made of the published official statistics and a variety of authorities on the subject consulted with a view to obtaining approximately accurate data. The results of this investigation have not been prepared, from which it appears that the total amount of gold coin circulating in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in the year of 1872 was \$24,651,000 sterling; silver, \$15,000,000; bronze, \$1,148,000; excess of bank notes over coin reserves, \$24,040,000; total circulation in coin and notes, \$141,239,000; equivalent in United States gold coin to \$68,421,540. The metallic currency, coin and bullion of France is given at 4,000,000,000 francs; notes of Bank of France in circulation on December 26, 1873, 2,907,689,625 francs; total, 6,907,689,625 francs. Deduct metallic reserve in bank December 28, 7,094,962,419 francs, and the currency circulation is 6,047,727,206 francs, equivalent in United States gold coin at twenty cents to the franc to \$1,209,545,441. In the twenty-two States composing the North German Confederation the supposed aggregate of coin is 632,435,362 thalers. The coin held in reserve by the banks to protect their specie circulation is 100,000,000 thalers, leaving in the hands of the people 532,435,362 thalers. The notes in the hands of the people amount to 1,149,142 thalers, making coin and notes in the hands of the people, 734,577,504 thalers, equivalent in United States gold coin to \$557,772,098. The German Government within the last two years has coined about 334,000,000 thalers in gold.

Surprising Discoveries of Venality in the Department of Justice—Frauds and Corruptions Everywhere.

A sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Seney and Durbin, of the Committee on the Expenditures of the Department of Justice, visited the First Comptroller's office this morning, and the mysteries of the expenditures of that department were revealed to such an extent as to cause the greatest surprise. The wholesale robbery that has been practised in the name of justice is not confined to government officials only, but is believed

to extend to the Judiciary. It is already evident that the extraordinary vouchers approved by some of the district judges demonstrate a moral turpitude that finds a parallel only in the case of Judge Durell, of New Orleans, and his blindness to the proceedings of E. E. Norton, the assignee in bankruptcy. The sub-committee will report to the committee on Saturday that it will be impossible to proceed without authority to send for persons and papers; and Messrs. Parsons and Williams, whose delicate sense of propriety prevented the chairman from asking this authority on Monday last, have agreed to support the resolution if the sub-committee think it necessary that the committee should now have this authority. Confidential reports from disaffected sources sent out by the Treasury Department trace questionable transactions to high officials, whose names, as yet, are withheld from the public.

General Grant on the Carpet-Bag Element in the South.

President Grant, in recent conversation with Southern members of Congress, remarked that as far as it was in his power he should hereafter strictly follow the policy of conferring appointments in the South on those whose loyalty and character were such as to entitle them to his favorable consideration. He was of the opinion that the so-called carpet-bag element had not contributed much to the good of the party in that section. The Weak Points in Butler's Pension Bill—Impracticability of the Proposed New System—The Working of the Present Organization.

The bill to amend and codify the laws in regard to the payment of pensions, so as to insure efficiency and economy in that branch of the public service, introduced by General Butler yesterday, is not a new measure. The same scheme was proposed by Butler three years ago, but never passed. The bill contemplates a very radical change in the mode of transacting the pension business, and the pension agents of the government, of whom there are sixty, are enormously paid. This view, however, which prevails in Congress, is based entirely on ignorance of the law. Pension agents run their agencies with the gross amount of compensation, and this includes salary, clerk hire, rents and every other expense incident to the office. Agents are paid a certain percentage, those disbursing \$400,000 receiving the maximum compensation, which is \$4,000. They also receive thirty cents for each voucher prepared. The Commissioner of Pensions has not yet had the bill formally laid before him, though he has examined it, and states that he thinks the scheme impracticable on account of the distribution of payment through a great number of agencies, which would occasion delays. He thinks the proposed system would be unpopular for the reason that the business being mainly conducted in the Washington office, it would be so far removed from the pensioners that he would find it impossible to obtain information promptly. The economy of the measure, the Commissioner thinks questionable. At present all expenses are borne by the agents, with an average of five clerks each. The proposed system would necessitate the employment of extra service at the post offices and a very large force of additional clerks here, an expense now paid by the agents. The bill will give rise to considerable buncome oratory, judging from the numerous communications received at the Pension Office from members of Congress asking information. The following is a statement of the gross amount of compensation to which each pension agent was entitled for the year ending June 30, 1873, which includes the expenses of office rent, clerk hire, preparing vouchers, with postage on the same, and remittance of the money to pensioners:

Arkansas.....	\$5,000	New Hampshire.....	\$8,300
California.....	8,500	New York.....	4,000
Connecticut.....	8,500	Ohio.....	18,700
District of Columbia.....	9,000	Oregon.....	15,000
Florida.....	1,000	Pennsylvania.....	15,000
Georgia.....	2,000	Rhode Island.....	15,000
Idaho.....	1,000	Tennessee.....	7,500
Illinois.....	1,000	Texas.....	15,000
Indiana.....	1,000	Vermont.....	7,500
Iowa.....	1,000	Virginia.....	7,500
Kansas.....	1,000	Washington.....	15,000
Maine.....	1,000	West Virginia.....	15,000
Massachusetts.....	1,000	Wisconsin.....	15,000
Michigan.....	1,000	Wyoming.....	15,000
Minnesota.....	1,000		
Mississippi.....	1,000		
Missouri.....	1,000		
Montana.....	1,000		
Nebraska.....	1,000		
Nevada.....	1,000		
New Jersey.....	1,000		
New Mexico.....	1,000		
New York.....	1,000		
North Carolina.....	1,000		
North Dakota.....	1,000		
Ohio.....	1,000		
Oklahoma.....	1,000		
Oregon.....	1,000		
Pennsylvania.....	1,000		
Rhode Island.....	1,000		
Tennessee.....	1,000		
Texas.....	1,000		
Vermont.....	1,000		
Virginia.....	1,000		
Washington.....	1,000		
West Virginia.....	1,000		
Wisconsin.....	1,000		
Wyoming.....	1,000		

Motions Paid the Chief Officers of the Port of New York.

In a recent despatch, founded upon information derived from an official document transmitted to the House of Representatives, in relation to motions, it was stated that, from March 1, 1869, to November 30, 1873, there were paid to the chief officers of the port of New York as follows:—To the collector, \$24,058.64; to the surveyor, \$291,213.61, making an annual average of \$77,773.16. This is apparent by a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, was erroneous. The period in which these amounts were received should have been from July, 1862, to November 30, 1873, making an annual average of about \$30,000 each.

The Law of Criminal Limitation.

The bill passed yesterday by the House, as reported from the Committee of the Judiciary, provides that no person shall be prosecuted, tried or punished in any United States Court for any offence not capital, or for any fine or forfeiture under penal statute, unless indicted, or information shall be found or instituted within five years from the date of the crime or act, except in the case of persons fleeing from justice.

Representative Willshire Takes the "Iron Clad" Oath and His Seat.

The contested election case from the Third Congressional district of Arkansas came up in the House to-day, on the motion to reconsider and lay on the table the vote of yesterday, declaring Mr. W. W. Willshire entitled *prima facie* to the seat. The motion to reconsider was laid on the table, the "yeas" being 135, and the "nays" 129. Mr. Willshire was then sworn in, taking the iron clad oath.

The Punishment for Manslaughter.

The bill reported to-day by Mr. Frye, of Maine, from the Judiciary Committee, provides that any person who shall be convicted of the crime of manslaughter in any United States Court in any State or Territory, or in the District of Columbia, shall be imprisoned for a term not exceeding twenty years and fined in a sum not exceeding \$1,000. After an amendment providing that the bill shall not affect any case now pending in any court the bill was passed.

Rights of Defendants as Witnesses—An Enactment for the Benefit of General Howard.

The House Judiciary Committee to-day reported a number of bills, among which was one giving defendants in all criminal cases in the United States courts and before courts martial and courts of inquiry, the right to testify in their own behalf. The bill passed the House, and an effort will now be made to push it through the Senate to give General Howard the benefit of its provisions when his case comes before the court of inquiry.

The Edgar Stuart to Sail on a Trial Trip.

The Secretary of the Treasury has instructed the Collector of Customs at Baltimore to interpose no further objection to the trial trip of the steamer Edgar Stuart, evidence having been fur-

nished of the good intentions of all concerned. He qualified the permission, however, by requiring that an officer of the revenue shall accompany the steamer.

God and the Christian Religion in the Constitution.

Mr. Butler yesterday reported adversely from the Committee of the Judiciary on the memorial asking for an acknowledgment of Almighty God and the Christian religion in the constitution of the United States.

THE CURRENCY.

Efforts of the Inflationists in the Senate—Patent Ideas for Resuming Specie Payments—Theories Unbounded—Logan and Schurz in Verbal Warfare—Scott's Motion Lost.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1874.

The Senate to-day resumed the consideration of the bill to amend the distribution of the currency. Mr. CHANDLER (rep. of N. H.), said that at the proper time he would offer an amendment which he had read for information. It provides that the Secretary of the Treasury shall retire and destroy a dollar of legal tender notes for each dollar in national bank notes issued. Mr. Chandler said he believed his proposition in regard to resumption of specie payments made some days ago was feasible. He thought the nation could give notice that it would resume specie payments at an early day, say July 1, 1875, or even January 1, 1875, and coin could be accumulated in the Treasury by that time which, with a loan of \$100,000,000, that could be negotiated, would enable such resumption. That would be the greatest measure of relief ever proposed for the nation, and the result would be beneficial to all classes. There seemed to be a rabid mania here on the part of some Senators against the word "coin." Increase the circulation and the purchasing power of money would be diminished in proportion. Inflation was the greatest curse which the nation had, and it inflicted on the nation or their constituents. He quoted the price of Confederate money from time to time, until at last it took \$1.20 of it to buy \$1 in greenbacks, and said that was inflation carried out to its bitter end.

Mr. LOGAN, of Illinois, said he was surprised that the great war Senator should be comparing our notes with Confederate notes. Did he not know that those notes were based on a prospective government, and the moment that government declared the money would be worth nothing? He (Mr. Logan) was ashamed of his country if she stuffs as this was to be received as argument in this Senate.

Mr. HOWE gave notice that he would submit an amendment as a substitute for that to be proposed by Mr. Chandler, providing that the Secretary of the Treasury shall, once in each month, sell to the highest bidder for United States notes coupon bonds equal to eighty-five per cent of the amount of the currency in circulation during the month preceding the month in which the bonds are issued. The bonds shall bear interest at the rate of five per cent per annum, payable quarterly, and the principal shall be paid in gold or silver at the option of the holder. The bonds shall be at least ten years from their date, both principal and interest to be paid in gold coin, but none of said bonds shall be at less than their par value, and the United States shall be bound to redeem them, and thereafter shall never be reissued, but shall be destroyed.

Mr. LOGAN said he thought the argument on the other side might be said to be on its last legs when an attempt was made to compare our money with the money of the Confederate States. He would call the attention of the Senate to the fact that the result from the passage of this Twenty-five Million Dollar bill. It would work a contraction of the currency to the amount of \$25,000,000, because the banks from which the money was to be taken would understand that they would be liable to be required to return the money, and they would not lend it.

Mr. FREELINGHUYSEN, of New Jersey, said it might produce a good deal of confusion, but he thought there was no objection to his amendment. He was desirous without producing any embarrassment. He would say, let the circulation be increased to \$25,000,000, and the same time diminishing the amount of United States notes to an equal amount. The result would be that without increasing the paper money, the circulation would be increased, and the United States would be bound to redeem them, and thereafter shall never be reissued, but shall be destroyed.

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